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B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which reconsideration is requested.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for regulating calls, comprising:

receiving, at a context regulation service, a request to determine regulation requirements for a call from a network switch;

detecting, at a context regulation service, a context for [[a]] said call from a first party to a second party via a particular line, wherein a third party different from said first party is a line subscriber[[s]] to said particular line [[a telephone service]] made available to said first party for said call;

accessing, at said context regulation service, a selection of context based criteria specified by said third party for said particular line;

comparing, at said context regulation service, said context for said call with [[a]] said selection of context based criteria for said particular line specified by said third party; and

only directing, by said context regulation service, for said network switch to establish[[ing]] a communication channel between said first party and said second party through said particular line if said context is acceptable within said selection of context based criteria.

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2.   (Currently Amended) The method for regulating calls according to claim 1, further comprising:

directing, by said context regulation service, for said network switch to route said call to a screening party if said context is not acceptable within said selection of context based criteria.

3.   Previously Cancelled.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method for regulating calls according to claim 1, wherein said context regulation service is communicatively accessible to said network switch outside a trusted telephone network handling said call via a secure communication gateway to a packet-switching network first party designates said selection of context based criteria.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method for regulating calls according to claim 1, wherein said context for said call indicates whether said call is a business related call by said first party and said second party designates said selection of context based criteria specifies at least one rule for regulating calls over said particular line if said call is a business related call and at least one other rule for regulating calls over said particular line if said call is not a business related call.

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6.   (Currently Amended) A system for regulating calls, comprising:

a communication channel enabled by a communication system;

a context regulation service communicatively connected within said communication system for receiving a request to determine regulation requirements for a call handled by said communication system;

said context regulation service comprising means for detecting a context of [[a]] said call initiated via a particular line between a first party and a second party, wherein a third party different from said first party is a line subscriber[[s]] to said particular line [[a telephone service]] made available to said first party for said call;

said context regulation service comprising means for accessing a selection of context based criteria specified by said third party for said particular line;

said context regulation service comprising means for comparing said context for said call with [[a]] said selection of context based criteria for said particular line specified by said third party; and

said context regulation service comprising means for only establishing said communication channel between said first party and said second party through said particular line if said context is acceptable within said selection of context based criteria.

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7.   (Currently Amended) The system for regulating calls according to claim 6, further comprising:

said context regulation service further comprising means for directing said call to a screening party if said context is not acceptable within said selection of context based criteria.

8.   Previously Cancelled.

9.   (Currently Amended) The system for regulating calls according to claim 6, wherein said context regulation service is communicatively accessible to said network switch outside a trusted telephone network handling said call via a secure communication gateway to a packet-switching network first party designates said selection of context based criteria.

10.   (Currently Amended) The system for regulating calls according to claim 6, wherein said context for said call indicates whether said call is a business related call by said first party and said second party designates said selection of context based criteria specifies at least one rule for regulating calls over said particular line if said call is a business related call and at least one other rule for regulating calls over said particular line if said call is not a business related call.

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11.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for regulating calls, comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request to determine regulation requirements for a call from a network switch;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting a context of [[a]] said call initiated via a particular line between a first party and a second party, wherein a third party different from said first party is a line subscriber[[s]] to said particular line [[a telephone service]] made available to said first party for said call;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for accessing a selection of context based criteria specified by said third party for said particular line;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for comparing said context for said call with [[a]] said selection of context based criteria for said particular line specified by said third party; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only directing said network switch to establish[[ing]] a communication channel between said first party and said second party through said particular line if said context is acceptable within said selection of context based criteria.

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12.   (Original) The computer program product for regulating calls according to claim 11, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for directing said call to a screening party if said context is not acceptable within said selection of context based criteria.

13.   Previously Cancelled.

14.   (Original) A method for regulating outgoing calls, comprising:

detecting an identity of a party called via a particular line;

determining a selection of third party criteria governing calls via said particular line according to said identity of said called party; and

only establishing a communication channel via said particular line between a calling party and called party if said called party is acceptable within said selection of third party criteria.

15.   Previously Cancelled.

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16.   (Currently Amended) A method for screening calls, comprising:

detecting a context for a call from a first party to an intended second party, wherein said context indicates at least one from among a location of said first party, a type of telephony device used by said first party, and a device used to authenticate an identity of said first party; [[and]]

responsive to said context requiring prescreening of said call, transferring said call to a screening party;

detecting an authenticated identity of said screening party;

adjusting said context to indicate said identity of said screening party and said regulated path to said screening party; and

distributing said adjusted context to said intended second party.

17.   (Original) The method for screening calls according to claim 16, further comprising:

establishing a communication channel between said first party and said screening party.

18.   (Original) The method for screening calls according to claim 16, further comprising:

establishing a communication channel between said second party and said screening party.

19.   (Currently Amended) A system for screening calls, comprising:

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a communication system for detecting a call from a first party to an intended second party;

means for determining a context for said call, wherein said context indicates at least one from among a location of said first party, a type of telephony device used by said first party, and a device used to authenticate an identity of said first party; [[and]]

means responsive to said context requiring prescreening of said call, for transferring said call to a screening party;

means for detecting an authenticated identity of said screening party;

means for adjusting said context to indicate said identity of said screening party and said regulated path to said screening party; and

means for distributing said adjusted context to said intended second party.

20. (Original) The system for screening calls according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for establishing a communication channel between said first party and said screening party.

21. (Original) The system for screening calls according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for establishing a communication channel between said second party and said screening party.

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22.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for screening calls, comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for determining a context for a call from a first party to an intended second party, wherein said context indicates at least one from among a location of said first party, a type of telephony device used by said first party, and a device used to authenticate an identity of said first party; [[and]]

means, recorded on said recording medium, for transferring said call to a screening party where said context indicates a prescreening requirement;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting an authenticated identity of said screening party;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for adjusting said context to indicate said identity of said screening party and said regulated path to said screening party; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for distributing said adjusted context to said intended second party.

23.   (Original) The computer program product for screening calls according to claim 22, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for establishing a communication channel between said first party and said screening party.

24.   (Original) The computer program product for screening calls according to claim 22, further comprising:

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means, recorded on said recording medium, for establishing a communication channel between said second party and said screening party.

Claims 25 – 54 (Canceled).

55. **(Currently Presented)** The method for regulating calls according to claim 1, wherein said context comprises at least one of a first geographical location of said first party [[caller]] and a second geographical location of said second party[[callee]] and said selection of context based criteria specifies at least one rule for regulating calls over said particular line to at least one of said first geographical location of said first party and said second geographical location of said second party.

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56.   (Previously Presented) The method for regulating calls according to claim 1, said method further comprising:

continually monitoring said context for said call once said communication channel is established between said first party and said second party, wherein said context for said call comprises an actual identity of said first party and an actual identity of said second party; and

only maintaining said communication channel between said first party and said second party if said continually monitored context is allowed when compared with said selection of context based criteria specified by said third party for said particular line.

57.   (Previously Presented) The method for regulating calls according to claim 1, wherein said context indicates a type of telephony device used by said first party.

58.   (Previously Presented) The method for regulating calls according to claim 1, wherein said context indicates a type of billing plan for telephony services available to said first party.

59.   (Previously Presented) The method for regulating calls according to claim 1, wherein said context indicates a device that authenticates an identity of said first party.

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60.   (**Currently Amended**) The system for regulating calls according to claim 6, wherein said context comprises <u>at least one of</u> a <u>first geographical</u> location of said <u>first party</u> [[caller]] and a <u>second geographical</u> location of said <u>second party</u>[[callee]] <u>and said selection of context based criteria specifies at least one rule for regulating calls over said particular line to at least one of said first geographical location of said first party and said second geographical location of said second party</u>.

61.   (**Previously Presented**) The system for regulating calls according to claim 6, said system further comprising:

means for continually monitoring said context for said call once said communication channel is established between said first party and said second party, wherein said context for said call comprises an actual identity of said first party and an actual identity of said second party; and

means for only maintaining said communication channel between said first party and said second party if said continually monitored context is allowed when compared with said selection of context based criteria specified by said third party for said particular line.

62.   (**Previously Presented**) The system for regulating calls according to claim 6, wherein said context indicates a type of telephony device used by said first party.

63.   (**Previously Presented**) The system for regulating calls according to claim 6, wherein said context indicates a type of billing plan for telephony services available to said first party.

64.   (**Previously Presented**) The system for regulating calls according to claim 6, wherein said context indicates a device that authenticates an identity of said first party.

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65.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product for regulating calls according to claim 11, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for continually monitoring said context for said call once said communication channel is established between said first party and said second party, wherein said context for said call comprises an actual identity of said first party and an actual identity of said second party; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only maintaining said communication channel between said first party and said second party if said continually monitored context is allowed when compared with said selection of context based criteria specified by said third party for said particular line.

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